

September 8, 2017

U.N. Peacekeepers in Lebanon Granted Stronger Mandate

On Aug. 30, the United Nations (U.N.) Security Council unanimously voted to extend and expand the U.N. Interim Forces in Lebanon's (UNIFIL) mandate. UNIFIL was created in 1987 and expanded in 2006 to ensure disarmament of all non-state actors in Lebanon. Since then, Hezbollah has used southern Lebanon as a fortress where it can attack Israel. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley stated: "This resolution gives UNIFIL robust authority to help Lebanon keep the south safe. What we sought in this renewal is to make sure UNIFIL is doing its job to the fullest extent possible. The new mandate granted UNIFIL authority to "take all necessary actions" to ensure areas in which it deploys are not used for "hostile activities of any kind," and mandates detailed reports on where and why peacekeepers are stopped by Hezbollah. It authorizes U.N. forces to play a more active role in helping the Lebanese army secure Lebanon's border areas, and calls on the U.N. Secretary General to "increase UNIFIL's visible presence" in Lebanon. Israeli Ambassador to the U.N. Danny Danon praised the expanded mandate as well.